



Flight Instructors Renew Certificates

Flight Instructor Refresher Clinics make it easier for Flight Instructors to stay abreast of changes in general aviation flight training. Montana was the lead for the nation's flight instructor refresher courses.

In 1966, the FAA picked up on a program run by Montana's state aeronautical commission, now MDT Aeronautics' Division. It was a recurrency course given to flight instructors, and the FAA thought that a biennial recertification of all flight instructors would be a good idea. The rule was enacted, and the FAA began to hold recertification courses around the country.

It soon became evident that the FAA didn't have the manpower or resources to deal with a project of this magnitude. Based on ASF's (the AOPA Foundation was renamed The AOPA Air Safety Foundation in 1967 to better reflect the nature of its work) demonstrated competence in aviation education, the FAA empowered ASF to conduct the recertification courses. Thus began another ongoing program: Flight Instructor Refresher Courses (FIRC). Thousands of CFIs renew their certificates every year under this extremely popular course, and it's still the largest in the nation. By the early 1990s the ASF again led the way by successfully petitioning the FAA to shorten the course from its original three-day/24-hour format to its current two-day/16-hour length. Better teaching techniques and a more focused curriculum made this change possible.



Montana flight instructors that are attending the Montana FIRC for the first time are awarded the numbered jeweled "Montana Buffalo Wings". This year attending the Montana FIRC for the first time are: Dan English, Jamie Whealon, Adrian Villaruz, Charles Giles, James Hinchey, Brian LaFond, Joseph Lambert, Gary Pollak, Andrea Robinson, Clyde Robinson, David Snyder, Stephen Turner and Adrienne VanAlstine



Thank you to the 2009 FIRC leaders; James Reynolds (left) Helena FSDO, Mary Schu (middle) Wings of the Cascades and Brian Dunlap (right) Helena FSDO.

Attending a 16 hour FIRC is one of the ways that flight instructors the flight instructor renewal; they attend, graduate, receive a temporary flight instructor certificate and a few weeks later they get a newly minted, good for another two years, certificate. This year, James Reynolds and Brian Dunlap of the Helena Flight Standards Office, expertly took over the processing of the temporary flight instructor certificates of which MDT Aeronautics is extremely grateful for.

Mary Schu President and Chief Instructor of the *Wings of Cascade* based in Bend, Oregon was the lead instructor for MDT Aeronautics Division's 2009 FIRC and Steven Jones, Aviation Safety Inspector for the FAA's northwest region, presented the wings program and the runway incursion program. Many, first-time, to MDT Aeronautics, flight instructors took the refresher clinic along with those instructors that make the trek to Helena every two years to see old friends, sharpen their knowledge and renew their certificates. Thank you all for attending and thank you for what you do for Montana aviation.

Administrator's Column

Silver Anniversary: The twenty-fifth annual state aviation conference was a resounding success with more than 500 attendees enjoying three full days of business meetings, learning, camaraderie and fun. After nine years, it was good to be back in Billings. Many thanks and congratulations to two loyal exhibitors that have attended all 25 conferences: Aerotronics, Inc of Billings, Montana and Omaha Airplane Supply of Carter Lake, Iowa. Steve Vold of Aerotronics and Rich Broberg of Omaha Airplane Supply were "crowned" and presented a sash and desk display for their dedication to the Montana Aviation Conference. Many thanks to Steve and Rich. To all exhibitors, sponsors, speakers and participants – your attendance and assistance contribute to the conference success each year – thank you. The Billings Host Committee and Aeronautics Division staff worked hard during the past year to ensure a flawless program, thanks to each of you for your contribution. I'd like to thank Patty Kautz for her exceptional organizational skills and patience – the conference success is largely attributed to Patty's efforts. In these trying times, we are blessed to have such a tight-knit, solid aviation community in Montana. Thank you all for your support and friendship.

Omnibus Funding Bill Signed: President Obama signed the 2009 omnibus appropriations bill that includes \$3.5 billion for AIP plus the \$1.1 billion under the stimulus/recovery program. Total AIP funds available for FY 2009 is \$4.6 billion. An extension of taxes and fees that are deposited into the aviation trust fund must also be extended before the end of March. Believing that will happen, the breakdown will be \$87.5 million for FAA administration; \$15 million to fund the Airport Cooperative Research Program; \$19.3 million to airport technology research and \$8 million for the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASD). The essential air service program is slated to get \$133 million and the contract tower program \$110 million plus \$9 million for the contract tower cost sharing program. FAA salaries of \$5.2 billion will be funded from the trust fund.

Industry combines to lobby congress: A coalition of 17 industry and trade associations, including the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) President and CEO, Henry Ogradzinski, have sent a joint letter asking the House Transportation Committee to provide 25% of the FAA's budget from general fund taxes. The letter states that general fund money has been used to boost the FAA's budget, and as recent as 2003, 25% of the agency's budget was financed with general fund dollars. The letter emphasized that a general fund contribution of 25% would go a long way towards funding the NextGen Air Transportation System which requires an additional \$1 billion per year to implement. The letter was sent to Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL) chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee did approve the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009. Chairman Costello hopes for a quick passage of H.R. 915 but the President's budget details will not be available until early April so it is doubtful this bill will be considered until those budget details can be examined. Remember last year this committee passed a bill to fund FAA from fuel (and other) taxes paid into the aviation trust fund, but the House bill stalled when it reached the Senate, which wanted user fees. Stay tuned.

Great Lakes Aviation Adds Flights: Effective April 7, Great Lakes Aviation will add a round-trip flight between Glasgow and Billings, Wolf Point and Billings and Havre and Billings. This brings the number of weekday flights to each community to two each day. To purchase tickets or to inquire about flight schedules visit www.flygreatlakes.com, call the reservation center at 1-800-554-5111 or visit your travel agent. This welcome announcement completes the restoration of essential air service as awarded to all of Montana's communities after a year-long struggle.



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Calendar

May 23-24 – Spotted Bear Work Session.

May 30-31 – Rocky Mountain West Aviation Expo, Boise, Idaho. For further information or to participate, contact Lee Hudson at (208) 323-4464 or league@idahobusinessleague.com.

June 12-13 – 5th Annual Lewistown Airport Fly In and Pancake Breakfast. Friday, June 12 – 6:30 p.m. – Steak fry, sponsored by MPA Central Hangar – RSVP requested, Sandi Chamberlain at schamberlain@lewistown.k12.mt.us. Saturday, June 13 – 7:00 a.m. to noon – Fly In and Sourdough Pancake Breakfast. For further information contact Jerry Moline (406) 535-3264.

June 20-21 – Fathers Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast, Fort Peck Airport. Steak fry Saturday evening and pancakes Sunday morning. Canoe trips down Missouri for those who call and schedule in advance. For further information or to schedule canoe trip, call Lanny Hanson, (406) 526-3535 or (406) 263-1154.

June 27 - 2nd Annual Seeley Lake Flying Club Fly-In and Community Barbeque Dinner, Seeley Lake Airport - 23S. Flame broiled burgers and dogs, salad, beans and dessert, raffle prizes and fun for all ages. Contact Calvin Kovatch, (406) 677-2932 kkovatch@blackfoot.net

June 27-28 – Meadow Creek Work Session.

August 2 – Hysham Airport Lions Club Fly-In, Drive In Breakfast, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Bob Miller at (406) 342-5252.

Max Murphy Presented with Bill Matthews Award



Max Murphy of the MDT Aeronautics Division Airports/Airways Bureau received the Montana Pilot's Association Bill Mathews Memorial Award at the recent Montana Aviation Conference in Billings. This award is given to aviators who have had to overcome great adversity in realizing their aviation pursuits. Max was an ATP rated airline pilot who was selected to fly F-16s for the Montana National Guard. Just prior to beginning his F-16 training, Max was involved in a very serious automobile accident which left him in critical condition for many months. After battling back against his injuries and challenging himself to overcome his new adversities, Max managed to regain all of his previous flight certificates, a first class physical and gained a new lease on life. Max has been with our Division for three years and regularly flies to and inspects all of the public airports in Montana. Pictured here is outgoing MPA president Russ Dahl (l) presenting the award to Max. Congratulations Max!

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696. MDT produces 2,200 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$858. This includes \$465 for postage.



Mechanics Refresher & IA Renewal Seminar Another Success

By: Michael S. Rogan, Aviation Support Officer, A&P / IA



The annual Mechanics Refresher and IA Renewal Seminar was another success this year. There was 9 hours of training conducted by technical instructors representing many areas of aircraft maintenance and 5 additional hours of regulatory training conducted by the FAA. All of the sessions were well attended with 64 A&P Mechanics with IA from Montana, three from Wyoming and one from California, receiving a Certificate of Training which can be used to meet the requirements of CFR 14 part 65.93(a) (4) for eligibility for renewal of their inspection authorization for the second year of the new 2-year authorization.

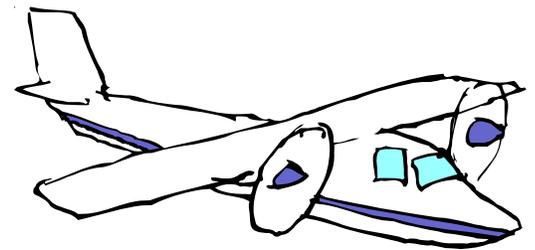
For an A&P Mechanic, with an IA, to be eligible for renewal of their IA they must show completion of one of

the five activities in §65.93 (a) (1) through (5) below by March 31 of the first year of the 2-year inspection authorization period, and completion of one of the five activities during the second year of the 2-year period:

1. Performed at least one annual inspection for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority; or
2. Performed at least two major repairs or major alterations for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority; or
3. Performed or supervised and approved at least one progressive inspection in accordance with standards prescribed by the Administrator; or
4. Attended and successfully completed a refresher course, acceptable to the Administrator, of not less than 8 hours of instruction; or
5. Passed an oral test by the FAA inspector to determine that the applicant's knowledge of applicable regulations and standards is current.

Our FAA approved course meets the requirements of §65.93(a)(4) and helps those IA mechanics renew their certificates each year who may fall one annual short or have not completed enough major repairs or majors alterations or who did not performed a progressive inspection.

This is a valuable course that the MDT Aeronautics Divisions provides for IA mechanics each and every year at the Montana Aviation Conference and for many years prior to the Aviation Conference's existence in 1985. We plan to continue providing this service and wish to thank all of the mechanics in the state and even some from surrounding states for attending.



Board Members Reappointed by Governor

Governor Brian Schweitzer recently reappointed five aeronautics board members to serve another term on the board; terms will end on January 1, 2013. Reappointed was Tricia McKenna of Bozeman. Tricia fulfills the qualifications for being a representative of the Montana Chamber of Commerce. Tricia has also been reappointed as chair of the board.

Bill Hunt, Jr. of Shelby fulfills the qualifications for being an attorney and member of the Montana League of Cities and towns. Fred Leistiko of Kalispell fulfills the qualifications for being a representative of the Montana Airport Managers Association. Roger Lincoln of Gildford fulfills the qualifications for being a member of the Montana Aerial Applicators Association. Ted Schye of Fort Peck fulfills the qualifications for being a member of the Montana Pilots Association.

We congratulate all the board members on their reappointments and look forward to working with them another four years.

Rocky Students Going to Flight Competition

The Intercollegiate Flight Team at Rocky Mountain College has been selected to compete at the national competition of the National Intercollegiate Flying Association.

The competition will start May 17 in Cahokia, IL. The event is six days long and pits the best 30 collegiate flight teams in the nation against one another.

In October, Rocky attended the regional competition in Greeley, CO, hosted by Aims Community College, and finished third out of six teams.

This is Rocky's third invitation to nationals in the past five years.

The competition includes nine events in which students compete in flying skills and ground knowledge.

Flight events included navigation, precision landings and message drop. Ground events include precision flight in a simulator, flight planning, aircraft preflight and aircraft recognition.

About 80 students took part in the regional competition this year. From Rocky, team co-captain Lukas Johnson finished in third place for the simulator, sixth in SCAN and 10th in the power-off-landings and 16th overall.

Team co-captain Brandon Templeton took fourth place in aircraft recognition, fifth in the simulator and in power-off-landings and sixth overall under the Top Pilot award.

Amy Hyde and Heather Kasubowski took fifth in the navigation event; Taylor Capers and Ryle Evanoff were eighth in navigation; Connor Lockwood and Brandon Templeton took 10th in navigation; and Dmitriy Nesmeyanov and Kevin Keegan were 10th in the message drop.

Keegan also took ninth in the short field landings and seventh for aircraft recognition.

Also earning points for Rocky were Grant Gagnon, Jacob Keierleber, Brian Kelleher, Jase Korol, Hannah Neel and Jesse Taylor. The team was coached by Chris Wiens, RMC director of flight operations, and full-time flight instructor and Flight Team veteran, Matt Cichosz.

Dynamic Leadership Course to Boost Skills of Civil Air Patrol Members

Top Civil Air Patrol members will increase their sophistication as leaders of the future, thanks to the 2009 Wing Commanders Course to be held March 29-April 4 at CAP National Headquarters, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

The intense, graduate-level course will posture participants to assume high-level command at the state and regional levels or as members of the CAP National Board, a key CAP governing body. Attendees are selected for the course by their region commander and must be approved by the CAP national commander, Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter.

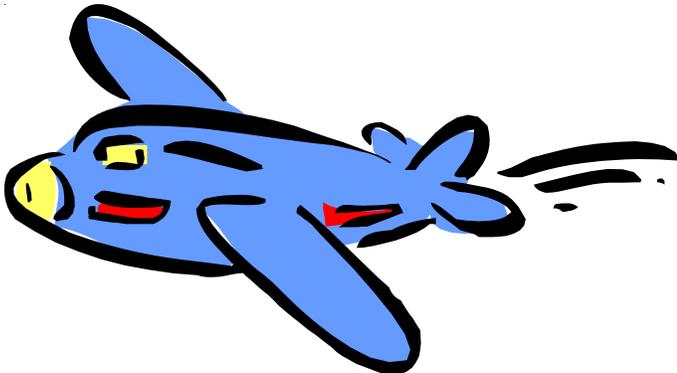
"The Wing Commanders Course covers everything a CAP commander should know in order to be an effective leader," said Courter. "As with all of our training, its content is thorough and its effect on participants is dynamic, which are qualities that are essential to success in today's technologically savvy world."

The program will focus on three main blocks of study: leading the organization, tools for corporate officers and tools for commanders. The curriculum features seminars, lectures and hands-on exercises in more than 20 enriching sessions on such topics as ethics, legal matters, fundraising and managing volunteers, finances and other resources.

Participants will gain a better understanding of CAP's aerospace education, cadet programs, operations, information technology, public affairs, membership development and logistics programs.

Guest speakers will include Courter, CAP Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood, Senior Air Force Advisor Col. Russ Hodgkins and CAP Executive Director Don Rowland, as well as subject-matter experts from membership and National Headquarters staff.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with nearly 56,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 91 lives in fiscal year 2008. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 67 years. For more information on CAP, visit gocivilairpatrol.com.



Glaser Sportsman Built in Two Weeks!

By: Chuck Flynn, Vigilante Hanger, Helena



Connie Horder of Helena recently completed a Glasair Sportsman in 14 days. Connie has a little over 120 hours total time and is a relatively new pilot. Even at that, she feels that her Sportsman is within her ability (and she's pretty modest, too) because of the responsive handling and slow speed manners of her airplane. Look for Connie when you're out at the Helena airport as you can't miss this yellow and blue beauty.

The Glasair Sportsman is a professionally built and equipped 4 place airplane that is fast, a rocket in the climb, and hauls everything and the kitchen sink!

The kit can be purchased in several forms to include a factory assisted "14 days, start to taxi" building method at their plant in Arlington, Washington.

When they say factory assisted, it means they coach, answer questions, and photograph the entire process during the 14 days. The builder does more than the 51% required to qualify this as an experimental aircraft and receives a certificate to do the maintenance on this specific airplane. Wonder how they do this all in 14 days? When you show up to build your plane, you start work at 8:00 a.m. and work until till 6-6:30 p.m.. Each day, the instructor has the tools and materials all laid out for the day's work and you quit for the day when that scripted session is complete. Who said this was easy??!! But....in 14 days, you've got yourself an impressive airplane...and...it's new! At the end of the 14 days you will taxi your airplane and, when it's signed off by the FAA (got to wait for that inspection!) you could fly it off the deck as well...safely, too! It's a real commitment but look at the results in the photos...of course, you need the kind of talent that Connie has for building, too!!

The Glasair Sportsman can be built in several configurations to include floats, conventional gear or tricycle gear. Should you desire the ability to interchange these configurations, you can build this feature into the air frame and enjoy the added versatility of water and back country. Need more information? Go to www.glasairaviation.com

Here are the **specs** for her 210 hp model:

Top Speed: 162 kts.
Cruise Speed: 150 kts @ 75% power. 145 kts @ 65% power
Rate of Climb: 1200 max gross. 2100 fpm solo!!
Range: 638 nm at 65% w/VFR reserve.
10.2 gph at cruise
Stall Speed: 42 kts V_{so} (full flaps) 51 kts V_s (no flaps)
Fuel: 50 gallons
Useful Load: 900 lbs +/- depending on equipment.
600 lbs +/- w/full fuel.
Interior: Ultra Leather. Lot's of panel options.
Cost: About \$165,000 as equipped in the photos...it's loaded!! (Plan to spend over \$400,000 for a "factory" airplane with comparable specs)



Congratulations Connie on a job more than well done....a gutsy undertaking with a result to be proud of!!

MDT Aeronautics Division Presents Teacher Workshop in Billings

Takeoff with Aviation Education, a workshop for Montana teachers, held in conjunction with the Montana Aviation conference was held on March 5-7 in Billings.

Kaye Ebelt of Missoula was the 2009 lead instructor. This year the teachers were introduced to the many ways to feature aviation in their teaching curriculum. The aviation workshop was available for graduate credit from the University of Montana and teacher renewal credits from the Office of Public Instruction.

The annual aviation workshop for teachers will be remembered as one of the best and a good share of the success goes to the array of aviation presenters that introduced hands-on aviation topics. Among the highlighted speakers were Mary Feik, Aviation Pioneer, Astronaut, Frank Borman and Pat Kenney with the Comstock restoration project. Aeronautical charts and navigation, aircraft engines, history of flight, and aviation survival and “Let’s go flying” with Dr. Ben Millspaugh were presented to the teachers.

On Friday, the teachers that attended the aviation workshop had a hand in presenting aviation concepts to Laurel Middle School 5th grade students. The final day of the workshop included a field trip to the Billings Airport where the workshop was hosted by Rocky Mountain College’s Aviation Department. Dan Hargrove, head of the Aviation department, gave an overview of the RMC aviation program, the teachers toured the airport control tower and then the teachers were treated to orientation flights with a fleet of aircraft including a Cub, Cessna 185, Cessna 182 and a Bonanza. Thank you to pilots, Wade Cebulski, Alan Kasemodel, Jim Lemon and Roger Peterson for donating their flying skills and their aircraft to this important program.



Mikayla Nelson a “Billings Hangar Kid”(l) pictured with Aviation Pioneer Mary Feik (center) and teacher Pat Kenney (r).



Teachers from throughout the state traveled to participate in the workshop. Jared Vonvleet (far right) from Noxon won the “traveled the farthest award”.



Pamela Belston, Laurel (l), Mark Rathbun, Park City (center) and Tammy Harpster, Laurel (r) are plotting a navigation route with lead presenter Jessica Smith, RMC Instructor (not pictured).



Dan Hargrove (far right) head of the Aviation Department at Rocky Mountain College led the tour of the Rocky Hangar.

Flight Simulator Up & Running



A recent report from Joe Scott on the flight simulator he was building (first reported in Montana & the Sky, October 2008) indicated that the simulator is up and running and performing great! Back in January Joe was working on the examiner's/ instructor's station and had also installed 2 Garmin 530's and a DVD recorder with a color camera. The simulator offers pilots the opportunity to "fly" the machine and practice emergency procedures, and the portable cockpit-simulator is also available for transport and hands-on demonstrations at schools and other groups interested in aviation.

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